

January 18, 2012

The Honorable Tom McMillin, State Representative  
Chairperson, House Education Committee  
P.O. Box 30016  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Representative McMillin and Members of the House Education Committee:

**Re: Opposition to SB 619, Proposed Cyber Schools expansion Legislation in Michigan**

I oppose SB 619 (Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Twp.). This legislation would delete the limit in state law of two contracts that may be issued for cyber schools, the limits of 400 students in the first year, and the requirements that cyber schools offer all of grades K-12.

I think social workers should be concerned about rapid growth in cyber schools. School districts can and do provide some cyber schooling opportunities. However, the impact of cyber schools in Michigan has not yet been fully studied, and there are some potential problems:

- Isolation of children from their peers
- Isolation of children from a range of adult role models
- Lack of access to school-based services, such as school social work, which may be needed for their educational success, and
- Lack of ability for students from lower-economic families.

**Recommendation:** We suggest that the Michigan Legislature take a position of opposition to SB 619 following further study and analysis of cyber schooling and the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard T. Zabawski".

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